ABSTRACT

There is described an image-processing method for extracting a main photographed subject from an image, which might be set in various ways in the image corresponding to various kinds of photographic conditions, and further, for making it possible to provide advanced image processing services in a simple manner by employing the results of the extracting operations. The image-processing method includes the steps of: acquiring input image information from an image by means of one of various kinds of image inputting devices; setting a subject pattern including one or more constituent elements from the input image information; applying a multi-resolution conversion processing to the input image information; detecting the constituent elements by employing a decomposed image of a suitable resolution level determined with respect to each of the constituent elements; and extracting the subject pattern from the input image information, based on the constituent elements detected in the detecting step.